

EUGENE WEEKLY

*THE BUTTERFLY
AND THE BLAZE*

How **climate change**, and tragic timing, may have helped turn a weather disaster in East Asia into a deadly conflagration in western North America PAGE 8

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letters

HOMELESS IN FRIENDLY EUGENE

Eugene has an identity crisis of seeming friendly and progressive, but it is an illusion, a vestige long gone. Criminalization of homelessness and malignant rudeness to street people are the accepted norm: class warfare. The city is managed in a cruel way: broken sidewalks near White Bird, unsafe streets, locked (or deplorable) Porta-Potties, water fountains shut off year-round, nowhere warm or safe to go.

Callboxes? Safe space? Those yellow signs you occasionally see at fire halls and convenience stores are meaningless. You can be arrested for sitting on the Rosa Parks bench at LTD. If you say "FTP" in Kesey Square you can be hauled away for disorderly conduct. The Wayne Morse Free Speech Plaza is often closed. Nothing is free or fun.

Choose rudeness and perhaps we will go away? Follow the money — law enforcement job security for keeping us here. The scapegoating and stigma against mental illness and homelessness is blatant, yet Lane County is a trap for "undesirables" like me: an involuntary, disabled, needy burden on society.

I did not want to move to Eugene but law enforcement made it so. Now I'm your problem. I've been stuck here, homeless at times, for one and a half years and I'm not allowed to move away, but the city hasn't provided any resources, just endless court appointments and probation officers for petty nuisance crimes, being mentally ill and impoverished.

I've met great people and I feel there is more hope for Eugene than in Springfield, but it is cold and scary out there. If it takes COVID-19 or forest fires to make people realize that, then so be it. Social Darwinism makes us all losers. Marginalized people are everywhere, and small kindnesses — a smile, just basic respect — help.

Leslie Shoemaker
Eugene

THE TOOTH FAIRY STOLE THE ELECTION

Shame on all you politicians, pundits and talking heads trying to convince the child-like millions of voters that Trump really won the election. Sooner than later they will find out the truth, and you will get nothing but coal in your stocking. Yes, Virginia, there is no Santa Claus, and Trump didn't win the election.

Michael T. Hinojosa
Drain

WHY I SERVE AT EGAN

I'm pretty sure I could not sustain the degree of suffering that some members of my community undergo, especially on bitter cold nights. The unhoused are chronically unequipped to meet their basic needs. We're all kin, so I owe it to

them to show up and do my part.

I do this by serving at Egan Warming Centers.

Egan urgently needs folks of reasonable health and a heart for humanity to go through training and sign up for a shift. Inconvenient, sure, but not a deal-breaker.

Next Zoom trainings are Tuesday, Dec. 15, at 7 pm, and Thursday, Dec. 17, at 6 pm. Email EganWarmingCenter@svdp.us for details.

Here's my offer: Any Eugene or Springfield elected official, county commissioner or other local public figure who signs up for training, I personally pledge to accompany you through your first activation. Your involvement will echo large in the community.

Mary Sharon Moore
Eugene

THE COVID CHOICE

What would you rather choose? Paying for groceries or paying your rent? Neither, right? Well, the reality is, most students right now have to make this tough choice. As the pandemic rages on, taking jobs and loved ones with it, more and more students have become food and housing insecure, as their ability to retain a job has become more difficult.

I work at an art museum on my college campus, but recently, we have had to close to the public because of rising COVID cases. I am out of a job until further notice. My income has stopped, but my bills are still rolling in.

In March, a COVID relief bill was passed, which allocated \$14 billion to colleges and universities. There has been no relief since then, however, and students are struggling more than ever. That is why we are calling on Congress to provide at least another \$14 billion for institutions of higher education in the next COVID relief bill, and most importantly to allocate funds to colleges based on overall student headcount, rather than full time enrollment. This would better serve low-resourced schools and support students who are experiencing food and housing insecurity.

No one should have to worry about how they are getting their next meal or whether they will have a place to live tomorrow, amid trying to get an education. Part time students are still full time humans!

Saher Alladin
Eugene

Letters Policy:

We welcome letters on all topics and will print as many as space allows, with priority given to timely local issues. Please limit length to 250 words and include your address and phone number for our files. Email to letters@eugeneweekly.com, fax to 484-4044 or mail to 1251 Lincoln, Eugene 97401.



End-of-life Counseling

White Bird Clinic is now offering end-of-life counseling services. Compassionate and client-centered, this service seeks to provide support for psychosocial, emotional, and spiritual issues related to death and dying.

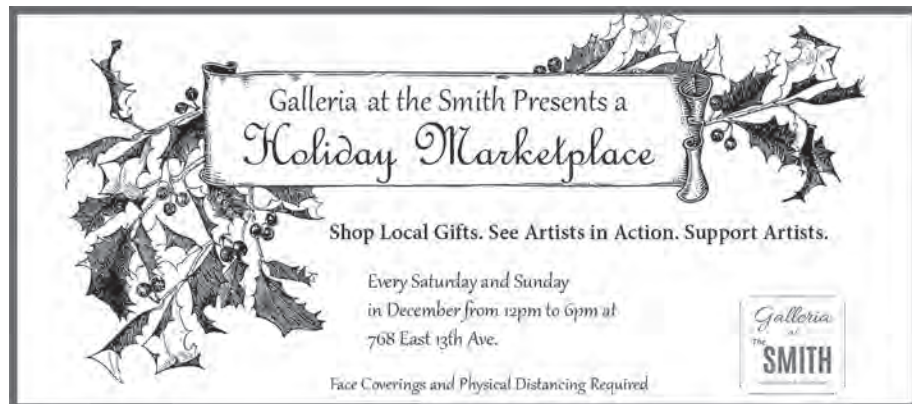
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Local and Vocal

BLACK GIRL FROM EUGENE BY AYISHA ELLIOTT

Inaction on Courage

SOME THINGS HAVEN'T CHANGED SINCE THE CIVIL WAR

The distribution of votes in this neverending election is screaming something else other than a democracy in crisis. Most people who voted saw this election as a battle of morality, of values, of life or death. A battle of racist or not racist, sexist or not sexist, for homophobia or against it, transphobia or not transphobic. A chance at a regular ole everyday, you're not that type of Black person, racism or surviving the escalation of violent deaths for being Black.

This split has conveniently lined up to Democrat or Republican. We can add the indifference of the Independent, because let's face it: This election we needed to make a clear choice for people, not the political party system. This whole concept is problematic in itself, but that's not what I'm going to talk about right now. I want to talk about HOW we narrowly escaped a green light to a second Civil War.

If you don't know your history, the bottom line of the Civil War was whether the South could continue to torture enslaved people for profit. The Union narrowly slipped by with a victory, largely due to the fact it enlisted enslaved people to fight for them, guaranteeing their freedom, win or lose.

We can discuss how those enslaved people were treated after the Civil War, with the same civil disregard until this present day. The public humiliation the troops endured due to their ethnicity, due to their skin color, society talks about that shame continuously. However, we don't talk about the audacity of white society at large to distance themselves from their desperate need for BIPOC's blood sweat and brilliance to push their American dream forward.

Without the acknowledgement that dream would be impossible without the deep sacrifice of the BIPOC communities. The percentages of white people who voted for hate, for misogyny and for violence is a clear indication of the truth of how white people have seen themselves in the decisions of equity this country has pushed forward with. It is an empty rhetoric. If the people of this country are basically split 50-50, it is indicative of a group of people who feel their wellness is somehow threatened by the equity of others.

There was no resolve, no reckoning by enslaved people and their owners. There was no "setting the story straight." Instead, racism was hidden in lies in our history books, in our statues, flags, names of prominent museums and structures of our society, as if nothing was ever really wrong.

When did BIPOC people get permission to be great? We haven't. We have saved ourselves, and this democracy.

Martin Luther King Jr was Black. He and others convinced our counterparts of their moral duty. There was never a landslide of people who agreed. The acknowledgement was begrudging at best. Those people? They are your mother and father or, at the very most, your grandmother and father. This past is not so far behind. These sentiments are very much real. These delusions that surround the white community are now revealed for everyone to discuss.

Once again, in 2020 the highest number of voters were Black people identified as women, followed closely by Latinx people identified as women. Fighting for our safety. Where were the allies?

We cannot expect to continue in the delusion of white supremacy. It is harmful to themselves and to others. The concept in itself mimics an unchecked mental health disorder, that we are all trapped in the house trying to avoid.

BIPOC people are tired and unamused. White folks are hurting and confused. Accountability for inaction and recognition for courage to confront this age old establishment of racism is front page news. Where are you? ■

Ayisha Elliott's podcast Black Girl From Eugene is raw and uncensored monologues and conversations about living while Black in the PNW. Listen locally at 11 am Sundays on FB Live; simulcast on KEPW 97.3 FM. Audio found on all major podcasting platforms.

I want to talk about HOW we narrowly escaped a green light to a second Civil War

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Oregon's Taboo Investment

A PRIVATE EQUITY INVESTMENT FIRM'S CEO HAS TIES TO JEFFREY EPSTEIN,
AND OREGON IS ONE OF ITS INVESTORS

By Jack Forrest

He's a billionaire and one of the most powerful investors on Wall Street. Leon Black is the CEO, chairman of the board and co-founder of private equity firm Apollo Global Management, which manages close to half a billion dollars of the Oregon Public Employee Retirement System (PERS) fund.

Black is also a longtime associate of convicted child pedophile Jeffrey Epstein, paying him millions of dollars every year from 2012 to 2017 in consulting fees, four years after Epstein was convicted of soliciting sex from a minor in 2008. Black made these admissions on Apollo's most recent earnings call — a quarterly call where publicly traded companies answer questions from analysts and investors — the morning of Oct. 29.

Apollo manages \$433 billion in assets, according to the call, with 23 percent of that from public pension funds. According to Oregon State Treasury (OST) spokesperson Rachel Wray, the Oregon PERS fund has \$448.5 million invested as of June 30.

On Oct. 20, Black asked the Apollo board of directors' independent three-person "conflicts committee" to hire outside counsel to review his relationship with Epstein, according to an 8-K Securities and Exchange Commission filing from Oct. 26. Companies must file an 8-K to the SEC when they make major announcements that shareholders should know about.

Black assured investors on the earnings call that his relationship with Epstein was purely professional and that Epstein helped advise him on estate planning, tax structuring of art entities and philanthropic advice.

"I believe it will assure all of our stakeholders that they have the relevant facts and demonstrate that everything I have said about my relationship with Epstein is accurate and truthful," Black said in the call.

The independent review may have come too late for some investors like the Pennsylvania Public School Employees Retirement System, which told Apollo it would not be making any new investments with the firm, according to the Financial Times. The Pennsylvania PSERS fund had just under \$1 billion invested in Apollo.

The CalPERS fund, California's equivalent to Oregon's PERS fund, and the Teacher Retirement System of Texas have contacted Apollo about Black's ties to Epstein but not yet taken action with their investments or announced plans for future investments.

A public record request for communications between OST, the state agency in charge of investing the Oregon PERS fund, and Apollo about their future relationship was fully denied. Funds invested in Apollo are privately held, making any records other than the address of the equity firm or the dollar amount of the investment exempt from the Oregon public records law under ORS 192.355(14), according to the OST records office.

Wray from OST said in an email to *Eugene Weekly*, "We

don't really get into specifics about our investments, but I can say that like any institutional investor, we evaluate all factors that influence or could affect those investments."

When asked specifically again about OST's future relationship with Apollo and whether there have been conversations between the state agency and the investment group in light of the financial link between its CEO and a man charged with sex trafficking, Wray reiterated the same point verbatim.

The Oregon PERS fund was worth \$77.7 billion as of Aug. 30 of this year, according to the Oct. 2 PERS board meeting packet. The fund made \$42.9 billion in public and private equity investments and \$8 billion in alternative investments — the category a fund like Apollo would fall under.

Black and Epstein met in 1996, Black said during the recent earnings call, but he has faced questions about his relationship with Epstein from investors since the death of the convicted sex offender in August 2019. The questions began to heat up when a *New York Times* investigation from mid-October of this year revealed that Black had paid Epstein \$50 million of his fortune over the span of six years.

Despite the negative press for Black and Apollo and a few investors pulling away from future investments, Apollo co-founder Josh Harris and Co-President Scott Kleinman said on the Oct. 29 call that investments haven't slowed down and their teams are still very busy. ■

slant

• The future belongs to the youth, so they ought to have a say on what it should look like. **If you have a child aged 3 to 16, we want to hear from them for our Dec. 24 issue.** Have them write 50-150 words envisioning the future regarding topics like systemic racism, climate change or the arts. And if they're artistic (let's face it, all children are) we'd love to see some illustrations. Send us your submissions to Editor@EugeneWeekly.com by noon Friday, Dec. 17.

• **On Nov. 30, Eugene police shot Muhsin Sharif, a person of color who is a mental health patient,** according to what his sisters told KEZI. Sharif is charged with domestic violence and was allegedly holding a knife. Sharif was hospitalized with life-threatening injuries, and Black Unity and others have been protesting this latest police shooting. While we get that there needs to be an investigation whenever the police use deadly force, there also needs to be more transparency, especially when it comes to situations with populations who face adversity in their mere daily existence, let alone when interacting with law enforcement.

• **Apparently Seneca wasn't feeling the love for Rep. Peter DeFazio** that the voters who re-elected him

were. Back in October, the timber company and sawmill sent a letter to its employees with recommendations on who to vote for in the November election, and it wasn't DeFazio. Seneca called him "a vocal opponent of our industry" and urged a vote for Alek "Dancing with the Stars" Skarlatos instead. Guess the \$9.9 million the congressman secured for repairs to the Coos Bay Rail line — that Seneca's Noti mill uses — wasn't good enough.

Seneca also gave Rep. Marty Wilde a thumbs down, calling him "one of the most aggressive legislators seeking to harm Oregon's forest products industry."

• The end is near — of 2020, that is — and that means it's time to start thinking about giving to good causes before tax season. **Look for some of those local causes in next week's Eugene Weekly Give Guide.** And if you want to support a good cause and don't need a tax break, please head on over to *EW's* online store, where you can buy an *EW* T-shirt, a subscription to this fine publication or just contribute

funds to keep us printing our soy-based ink on recycled paper. Go to Support.EugeneWeekly.com. We thank you, and our readers thank you!

• **Even though the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advise against clearing homeless camps during this out-of-control pandemic, the**

city of Eugene continues to do it. The most recent area was cleared out from a small strip of green grass on Dec. 2 near Jefferson Street and 2nd Avenue. The city heartlessly brought out a bulldozer to gather trash mixed with the people's few belongings. Then, on Dec. 5, several people staying at the Eugene Mission tested positive for COVID-19, prompting the shelter to close its doors to new guests. Now unhoused individuals have one less place where they can find respite, in a city that didn't offer much to begin with.

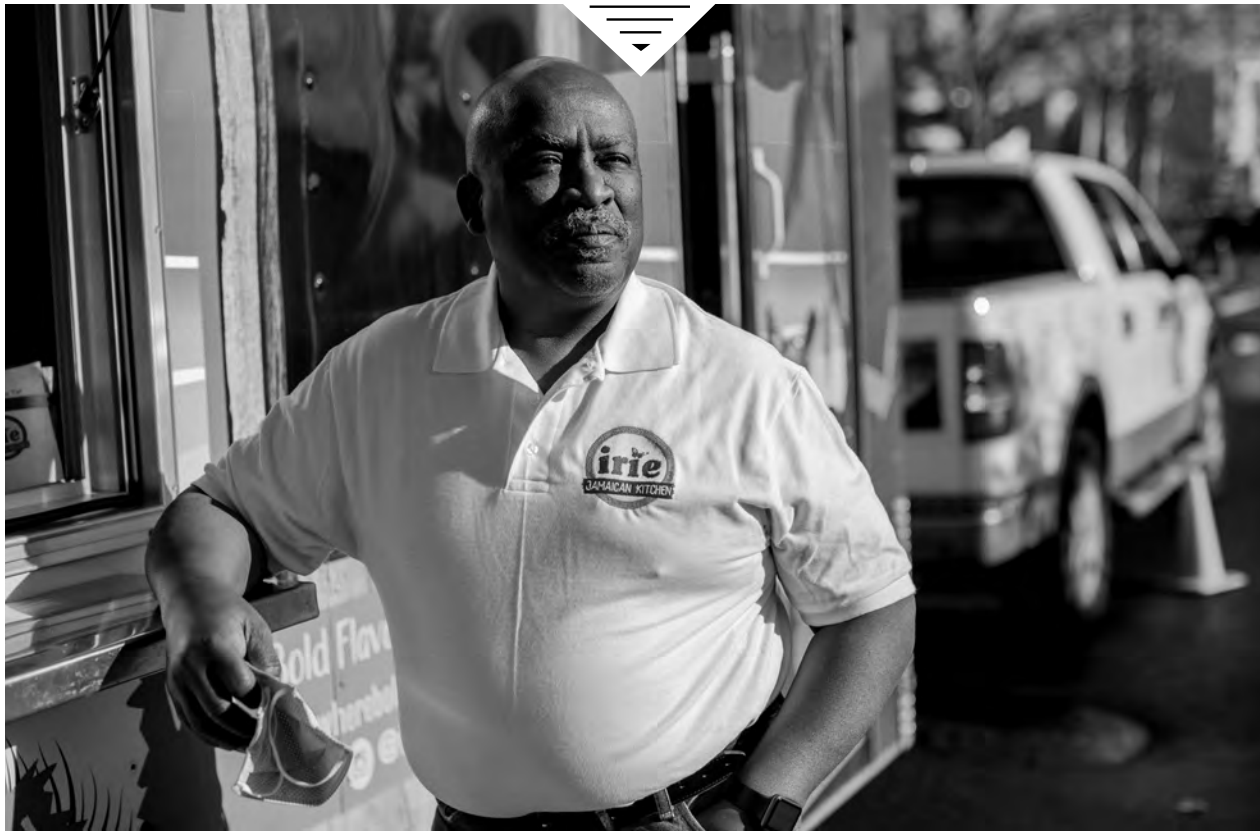
• **If you only have time to seriously follow one Duck team this winter season, may we suggest the women's basketball team?** Sabrina Ionescu and last year's stars are no longer here, but Sedona Prince and a new flock has arrived. The team is ranked in the top 10 nationally and is undefeated as we write on Dec. 7. Coach Kelly Graves has again recruited a fine group of young women who seem to enjoy playing together and are so much fun to watch at games, and on TikTok. The big test will come when they play Stanford, ranked No. 1 as of Dec. 7.

• **What a surprise to open the Sunday Dec. 6 New York Times and find a full-page University of Oregon ad.** The topic was "Science Advancing Society" and "The Knight campus — speeding the pace of scientific discovery, starting today." The ad included stunning pictures of the Phil and Penny Knight Campus for Accelerating Scientific Impact. Hopefully, this ad and the money spent will bring students, faculty, more money and, of course, prestige to the UO.



MUHSIN SHARIF

Photo courtesy Lane County Jail



Presidential Prediction

PERRY ADAMS, OWNER OF IRIE JAMAICAN KITCHEN FOOD CART,
PICKED THE BIDEN/HARRIS WINNING TICKET IN JULY 2019

By Chandler Henderson

On Jul. 18, 2019, *Eugene Weekly* printed a story that featured local citizens' presidential choices if the elections were to be held on that day. We were more than a year away from the elections and the tension for the upcoming elections was building; however, we didn't know who would be on the Decocratic ticket.

That didn't prevent local business owner and father Perry Adams of Irie Jamaican Kitchen food cart from successfully picking who would be on that ticket and ultimately win the election — Joe Biden and Kamala Harris. *EW* checked back in with him after his presidential preferences came to pass — although during the first Democratic debate Adams feared maybe it wouldn't turn out as he had hoped.

"Harris threw him a curve ball in the first debate when she asked him why he was against busing," Adams says of the debate. "But just like a true leader sometimes you have to take those that challenge you the most and partner with them."

Biden was once the Democratic Party's leading anti-

busing crusader, according to a July 2019 *New York Times* article, which called it "a position that put him in league with Southern segregationists, at odds with liberal Republicans, and helped change the dynamic of the Senate."

Adams says he considers the "journey" of the past four years to be one that has pulled our country apart, and he feels this administration will bring us back together. However, the hypocrisy and double standards are not invisible to him.

"I hear them say Biden is not a law and order candidate, but if you think about what happened with the 1994 crime bill, it did not go easy on criminals. Especially African Americans," Adams continues, "So how can you say with one breath he's not for law and order, then say he was hard on African Americans with the crime bill?"

While Adams says he feels America is deeply divided and has many issues that need to be handled, the one he feels needs to be handled first is the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Right now we don't have a united front on COVID-19. A lot of people don't like Kate Brown's approach here in Oregon because she's shutting things down," Adams continues, "I give her props. It takes a lot of courage to do

that no matter how much it hurts. We can let it run and let a bunch of people die, or we can try to cut it off and give people a chance to survive."

Adams is also passionate about the Black community and how the U.S. responds to the needs of the community that largely contributed to Biden/Harris winning the election. While he says Biden needs to be a president for all people, he recognizes that the African American community needs better education, opportunities and representation.

"When it comes to African Americans I would hope to see a pathway to education that is easier for working class families, as well as employment opportunities, especially in Oregon."

Adams continues: "The diversity and inclusion is a little bit of a struggle here in Oregon. When I look at representation I look at it like this: We've been invited to the party, which is the diversity part. Then we get asked to dance, which is like the inclusion part. But we were invited, and we are now dancing, but we still feel like we don't belong. So what I would like to see is how the U.S. can not just include us, but allow us to be who we are. I want us to be accepted for who we are." ■

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WARMING SEAS, BURNING FORESTS

How climate change, and tragic timing, may have helped turn a weather disaster in East Asia into a deadly conflagration in western North America | BY MATTHEW D. LAPLANTE AND JACOB STUIVENVOLT ALLEN

It began as a tempest, the likes of which Nancy Behm had never felt in more than 70 years of living in Blue River.

“East winds are always a little spooky. They’re different creatures,” Behm says. “But this was very, very intense. And I could hear trees and branches cracking, breaking, falling.”

The storm was somehow soothing, though, and Behm fell asleep to the sounds it made against the walls of the old farm home her parents had built back in 1953.

At midnight Behm woke to a call from her grandson. “There’s a fire at Holiday Farm,” he told her. “You need to evacuate.”

Holiday Farm was up Hwy 126, miles away. “In my slightly sleep-addled mind,” Behm says, “I figured I had some time to get organized and make plans.”

But when she walked outside and scanned the ridge, the sky was orange.

“It had been a couple of years since I had done any running,” she says, “but, oh boy, I definitely remembered how to do it.”

The Holiday Farm Fire would go on to burn for more than a month, taking with it some of the most beautiful land Oregon has to offer. And it wasn’t anomalous. Blue River was one of dozens of towns devastated by the scores of fires that burnt across the western United States in early September.

Winds were complicit, if not the outright cause. Where relatively small wildfires were already burning, the hurricane-force gusts stoked and pushed the flames across roads and rivers, up streakbanks and down mountain valleys. Where there were not yet fires, the winds downed power lines, sparking new blazes, which rapidly grew to infernos.

In the wake of these conflagrations, many have noted the role of climate change in creating conditions for fire — and correctly so. Climate change is increasing wildfire risk through warmer temperatures and prolonged drought. Meanwhile, human fire suppression efforts have led to more dense vegetation, which then dries, brittles and inevitably burns when the region’s climate once again leans hot and “fire weather” prevails.

As for the winds? They’ve mostly been treated as a freak event — an untimely phenomenon that simply happened to arrive at the worst possible moment.

But emerging meteorological evidence suggests the massive wind event that fueled fires across the West in September may itself have been stoked by a surprising source: violent storms that began an ocean away. If that is so, it would be one of the first documented cases in which one deadly weather disaster can be shown to have helped trigger a completely different one.

And in a world in which climate warming is intensifying many kinds of extreme weather events, the implications could be profound.

BEYOND IMAGINATION

Inje University researcher Jong-Kil Park has been studying weather-related disasters in Korea for nearly 20 years, but even he was taken aback by what happened in late August and early September.

“It was beyond imagination,” he says.

First came Typhoon Bavi, which reached the Korean Peninsula on Aug. 26. Next came Typhoon Maysak, which reached Korea on Sept. 2. Finally, there was Typhoon Haishen, which reached Korea on Sept. 6.

Typhoons are usually born in warm, energy-rich tropi-



NANCY BEHM
Photo courtesy Elisha Young

cal waters and move poleward from there. But most have significantly dissipated once they reach the considerably colder, energy-poor seas surrounding South Korea.

These three storms, though, were different.

“In the past,” Park says, “they would have passed the peak period and entered the period of extinction.”

Park lives in the southeastern port city of Busan, where both Maysak and Haishen made landfall, cutting power to homes, felling trees, and forcing the cancellation of train and plane travel. He was jarred by the ferocity of the storms. “It was difficult to sleep due to the strong winds,” he says.

At the right time of year — if a cyclone is strong enough and the waters are warm enough — typhoons can make trouble in Korea.

“Usually, landfall of one typhoon is expected every year close to September in the Korean Peninsula,” says Professor Yuei-An Liou, whose work at Taiwan’s National Central University is focused on measuring meteorological events in Asia.

But three in a row? Liou calls that “a unique event.” It was the first time on record that three typhoon-strength cyclones had struck the Korean peninsula in such quick succession.

To most observers, though, the back-to-back-to-back storms were a weather event that happened to Korea and its surrounding areas. On Sept. 7, the U.S. Joint Typhoon Warning Center issued its last bulletin on Haishen. At that point, the center reported, it was no longer a typhoon but an extratropical low pressure system — a seemingly inconsequential area of counter-clockwise-spinning winds in the middle of the North Pacific. And as for the two preceding storms? They seemed to have disappeared into the ocean winds.

But that may not be the whole story.

A BUTTERFLY IN BUSAN

Like all weather events, typhoons are a consequence of the movement of energy. They pick it up in one place; they distribute it to another. But it’s generally hard to know precisely where the energy comes from and where it goes. The ocean is a huge and amorphous thing. The atmosphere even more so.

The infinite ways in which energy might travel through these vast environs was at the heart of the work of Edward Lorenz, an American mathematician and meteorologist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Obsessed with improving the predictability of weather, Lorenz was a pioneer of computer forecasting. But one day, having rounded the inputs in a forecast equation by a few ten-thousandths of a percent, he saw that his results were wildly divergent — not just a little different, but completely different.

“How could it be so different? It was a problem he couldn’t figure out,” says Lorenz’ daughter, Niraja Cheryl Lorenz, a former research psychologist who is now an artist in Eugene. “He went away for a coffee to think about it. At first he thought it must be a glitch in the computer... but he kept pursuing it.”

For Edward Lorenz, the limits of prediction — the chaos embedded into a system so big, so complex, that it could never be fully quantified — became a new obsession. And in the early 1970s, he came up with a metaphor to describe that chaos. Speaking to his colleagues at the 139th meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Lorenz asked, “Does the flap of a butterfly’s wings in Brazil set off a tornado in Texas?”

“In more technical language,” Lorenz continued, “is the behavior of the atmosphere unstable with respect to perturbations of small amplitude?”

The answer, chaos theorists have since concluded, is

You Alone Cannot Save the Planet

BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU SHOULDN'T TRY

By Malachi Murphy

We have a crisis on our hands. The planet is warming, which is destroying natural systems across the globe. Each year we ask ourselves, what can I do? Here are the spoilers: You and I are not killing the planet, the businesses where we buy our fuel, food and manufactured goods from are. However, even if fate is not all in our hands, we have a couple cards still to play.

As first noted by the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) in its 2017 Carbon Majors Report, 71 percent of all CO2 emissions come from just 100 companies. If this sounds like a pretty major bummer for you, don't sell your Prius or give up on veganism just yet.

Human contribution to climate change is hard to quantify, but a study from the University of Almería in Spain suggests individuals contribute about 20 percent of the global carbon dioxide emissions, though some people's actions may be pulling more weight than others.

If today is your wake up call, here's the basics:

Allen Thompson, professor of environmental philosophy and ethics at Oregon State University, recommends a good first step to becoming eco-conscious: an online CO2 footprint calculator. These tests usually take about 25 minutes and will show you how big of a problem you are, hopefully prompting the correct level of grief and guilt, after which you can start going green.

In Eugene there are lots of environmentally minded individuals participating in simple actions such as switching to water saving faucets, driving hybrid cars and cutting out meat from their diets. Thompson used hybrid cars as an example, saying they save on gas and create less emissions. He also remarked about how the large scale commercial raising of animals for meat creates a significant portion of emissions, so cutting meat out of your diet can create a lesser demand for these products.

Do not be fooled into thinking this is enough. Thompson tries to remind everyone that individuals alone are not going to fix the planet's climate.

"We like to 'check the box' and then believe we are done with our role," Thompson says.

Although he discourages people from taking the easy way to moral rest, Thompson still believes the actions of a person preaching environmental justice should align with their beliefs.

In the process many people become apathetic, and with little changing in federal politics they lose their hope. Thompson is currently writing a paper on the purpose of hope in combating what he calls "climate apathy."

"It is your moral duty to remain hopeful for this unknown future," he says, "although my belief is that a lot of change we are going to behold is already locked in."

This may seem like a big ask of people with little to work with, but Thompson makes sure to separate broad and unattainable hope from precise and measurable hopes. Just like setting goals for yourself, accomplish the small stuff and the big stuff will follow.

Thompson goes so far as to say that to hope for things to stay the way they are now is delusional, but to hope that we can save the spotted owl, for example, is more realistic and possibly more important. These small successes promote psychological well being and keep us hopeful another day longer.

Luckily, in Eugene there are many institutions for us that create hope. From bicycle delivery companies like Cascadian Courier Collective or Pedalers Express, to for-profit recycling businesses like PakTech and public infrastructure like the EmX, you might think we are exemplifying the greener future. However, there is always more.



ALLEN THOMPSON,
professor of
environmental philosophy
and ethics at Oregon
State University

Once you have learned to turn off your lights when you leave the room, Sophia Trotter, a local member of the Eugene Sunrise Movement, has a more advanced lesson. She says individuals should get organized and become activists locally.

"I was there once," she says of the days before she became an activist. "But once I got involved, it has given me a purpose, more so than voting or anything else has."

The Sunrise Movement may just be one avenue for a new activist to get involved with. Trotter suggests that people looking to be more involved start

with just a few close friends, and make it a point to participate in public forums and hold local politicians accountable.

"What gives you hope and causes real change is here, at the grassroots level," Trotter says.

Climate and the City

THE URGENCY FOR THE CITY OF EUGENE TO TAKE CLIMATE ACTION — AND HOW TO GET THERE

By Taylor Perse

The world is reaching the point of no return when it comes to climate change, and its effects hit locally as well as globally. Eugene is no exception. Though smaller than other municipalities in land size and population, Eugene still has the responsibility to take action on climate change — and to do so quickly.

The city has taken some bureaucratic steps in creating climate change policy, but it has also been criticized in the past for being slow to take action. Local climate experts say the city can still make a monumental impact by leaving behind fossil fuels and natural gas and instead electrifying buildings and reworking the transportation system.

The caveat? To accomplish these actions efficiently yet equitably — not at the expense of marginalized communities and people of color who often experience the worst effects of the warming planet.

Much of Eugene city staff's recent work began in 2014, when the City Council adopted a Climate Recovery Ordinance. This created two climate goals for both the wider community and the city's operation. These goals include reducing fossil fuel levels by 50 percent of 2010 levels by 2030. A goal for the city was to become carbon neutral by 2020 — meaning no net release of greenhouse gas emissions.

In implementing the climate ordinance, Eugene developed the Climate Action Plan (CAP) 2.0 over the last few years, which provides a researched “roadmap” of smaller steps that will lead the city to its bigger climate goals.

Local climate activist and expert Matt McRae has a clear vision of the direct action the city can take and show leadership. He says residents are ready for big shifts in how they live, even though the city is dragging its feet in some areas. In addition to being on the Eugene Water and Electric Board (EWEB), McRae works with the climate organization Our Children's Trust and is the city's former climate and energy analyst and natural hazards specialist.

He says there are three areas Eugene can focus on if the city is to have any chance of preventing some of the worst impacts of climate change: renewable electricity rather than natural gas, more accessible and carbon neutral transportations and getting people off fossil fuels.

“We have to do a whole bunch of efficiency at work to reduce energy overall,” McRae says. But he says it isn't going to happen without a significant investment and strong council leadership.

He explains that this is something that needs to be seen on

the business and community level with commercial buildings and homes moving off natural gas. The best way to do this would be to change building codes, McRae says, which can only happen at the state level. However, he says, there is a policy opportunity where the City Council can mandate that all new buildings funded by city money have to operate on electricity.

“I'm hopeful that the council will look at it in the near future,” McRae says of buildings being more energy conscious. “Energy efficiency and electrifying everything. That's what we have to do.”

Eugene city staff is also currently negotiating a franchise agreement with the local natural gas provider NW Natural, the results of which could have a major impact on the city's goal to reduce fossil fuels.

Chelsea Clinton, the sustainability manager with the city of Eugene, works on coordinating and implementing the Climate Recovery Ordinance. Clinton notes that the city has made progress on its climate goals, citing the recent 13th Avenue bikeway project as an example. This road redesign created an easy-to-use bike path from downtown to the University of Oregon campus, which encourages less driving and more alternative modes of transportation.

She adds that the city has almost 250 other projects that focus on transportation and are trying to replace city vehicles with ones that are electric or run on renewable diesel. In addition to the new bikeway this includes new greenways and new street designs that are more bike and pedestrian friendly.

“We are trying to make the messaging really simple here,” Clinton says. “We want to be reducing gas and diesel fuel use as a community. We wanted to build momentum and build on existing work.” Clinton says the city is basing its 2020 greenhouse gas emissions data on 2019 and using those projections together with purchasing carbon offsets to cover the emissions estimates it will meet its carbon neutrality goal.

Clinton also cites the city's climate resilience work. She says Eugene's emergency preparedness team is working on plans that incorporate extreme weather, because climate change will make weather patterns more erratic. This includes updating flood plain maps and utilizing vulnerable population maps.

Other activists point out that in creating these various policies, the city needs to not forget populations who are more affected by climate change.

Aimee Okotie-Oyekan is an environmental justice coordinator for the NAACP. She echoes the importance of change in the transportation sector as well as the removal of natural gas. For Okotie-Oyekan, one of the most important aspects is making sure that these climate policies are done equitably for all people in Eugene.

Another grassroots organizer who works with Beyond Toxics and NAACP, Haley Case-Scott, emphasizes the equity aspect, too.

“One big thing is ensuring that the cost of transitioning away from fossil fuels are not pushing on people who have the least ability to pay for them,” Case-Scott says. “Not at the expense of low income and people of color.”

As a part of the city's CAP 2.0, an equity panel representing people of color met 10 times in 2019 to represent voices of communities that are often marginalized. Though including diverse voices in the process was an important step, Case-Scott says now it's a matter of making sure they are continually included in the conversation and holding the city accountable for recommendations of the panel.

In creating and implementing climate policy, Okotie-Oyekan says there is often a false notion that legitimate knowledge and ideas can only come from expert institutions.

“BIPOC communities have their own expertise because they have lived through those experiences. They can tell stories of things people can't imagine because they've lived through it,” Okotie-Oyekan says.

With clear ideas and pathways of mitigating climate impact, the question remains, is the city doing enough? McRae says Eugene residents are open to climate action, but he doesn't think the city is moving as quickly as it should because there have to be large infrastructure changes in a short period of time.

“We are not seeing a shift that reflects our desire to change,” McRae says.

Looking toward Lane County's climate in 2040 sounds like the setting of a dystopian sci-fi novel. According to Phase One of the Climate Action Plan paid for by the county, summer temperatures could be 10 to 12 Fahrenheit degrees hotter, and there could be a 400 to 500 percent increase of wildfire surface area and no more snowpack in the Cascades.

But Lane County is at last taking action.

With recent reports inventorying the county government and countywide greenhouse gas emissions, Lane County is beginning to address climate change, tackling its part in humanity's greatest existential crisis. Earlier this year, the county hired a climate strategist, Mark Nystrom. He says the county is in a unique position to find ways to address climate change in rural areas, and he wants solutions to put priority on equity over lowering the carbon footprint.

Lane County Commissioner Joe Berney of Springfield serves on the county's new climate change advisory committee, and he says he wants to push for climate action because time is running out.

"Before Heather [Buch] and I were elected, I was told no county staff were allowed to use the term climate change," Berney says. "We now have an initiative that is working at every aspect of Lane County government operations to decrease carbon emissions."

In February, the Lane County Board of County Commissioners made climate action a priority when it passed an ordinance (though Commissioner Jay Bozievich dissented).

In addition to acknowledging the Declaration on Human Rights and Climate Change written by Global Network for the study of Human Rights and the Environment, the ordinance creates six phases of action items. This includes conducting a greenhouse gas emissions inventory, developing a comprehensive countywide plan of aggressive goals and strategies, making a resiliency plan, supporting green jobs, having transparency on progress toward climate action and establishing a climate advisory committee.

The county paid Eugene-based Good Company about \$84,000 to develop the first phase of the Climate Action Plan. So far, the company has authored two reports: one on county operations and the other countywide emissions.

The first report was released in August, which showed the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions at the county government level is the Short Mountain Landfill.

Food waste plays a huge role in emissions, Nystrom says. He says whenever something that was once living is sent to the landfill, it starts decomposing and emits carbon dioxide. As of 2016, he says 45,000 tons of food waste is processed there. The county estimates the landfill emits about 170,000 to 180,000 tons of carbon dioxide every year, he says.

"The typical person driving a car is about 2,500" tons of CO₂, he says. "That's a lot of cars."

In the report, Good Company points to an anaerobic digestion system to cut down on emissions at the landfill. Nystrom says the organic waste goes into the machine and is broken down into methane, a natural gas. That gas can be used for vehicles or injected into a pipeline for renewable energy consumption. "It's a valuable commodity," he says.

But Nystrom says the problem is that the system is expensive and city governments have to be on board. Cities have their own contracts for waste management, so the county can't just take waste and put it in the anaerobic digestion system. And the county can't force other cities to do curbside compost pick up like the city of Eugene does.

The county recently released the countywide greenhouse gas inventory, and it shows that Short Mountain's emissions are lower than transportation-related fossil fuel emissions. "What makes it unique is that diesel emissions are much higher than the national average," Nystrom says.

Nystrom speculates that what seems to account for so much transportation emissions from diesel and gas vehicles is I-5. But the county government can't act alone on tackling that problem through economic "sticks" like higher gas taxes, he says, because a traveler or long-haul trucker would just stop for gas in another county.

Although the bulk of the county's population lives in metro areas, there's still a lot of rural residents to consider. Nystrom says most of the climate work in the U.S. has targeted urban areas, so Lane County is on the cutting edge. Rather than telling the city of Florence it needs more bike infrastructure, the county is going to include city transportation experts, the Department of Transportation and the public to make sure everyone is included in policy conversations.

What concerns Nystrom is equity. "One of the things I really need to do is create not only a lower carbon world but a more equitable

The County Pushes Climate Action

LANE COUNTY GOVERNMENT IS ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE DURING 2020 WITH GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORY AND COMMITTEE

By Henry Houston

world," he says. "There's a lot of groups that aren't traditionally engaged with local government, that don't traditionally know the avenues, that are traditionally underrepresented in the work we do. Ironically, they contribute less to greenhouse emissions but are disproportionately affected by the changes due to climate change."

Nystrom says he'd rather see the county's decisions take into account equity over lessening the carbon footprint. That's why he's partnering with nonprofits like Beyond Toxics and Eugene-Springfield NAACP to find more equity.

On Dec. 2, the World Meteorological Organization announced that 2020 is on track to be one of three warmest years on record and the past decade was the warmest ever recorded. The organization said this means climate change could be happening much faster than expected.

Berney says he intends to get more aggressive with climate action in the next year.

One way to push for more climate action is through the Lane County Climate Advisory Committee, which provides recommendations for action to the county commissioners. Both Nystrom and Berney are on the committee.

"It's a good group of people with expertise that I am excited to work with," Berney says. "I will tend to push to accelerate activity faster and faster because I see this as an existential threat."

Community members are appointed by the Board of County Commissioners, and each commissioner appoints their own delegate. Bozievich, who told activists in the past to listen to climate deniers like the conspiracy website *Natural News*, appointed a timber advocate. Berney appointed a member of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians.

Berney says the majority of commissioners support climate action, but he wants to push hard for it next year.

"I'm the only person saying this, but what I'm hammering for is that we need to commit to the goal of a net zero carbon neutral Lane County — not just a net neutral county government," he says. "There are a variety of ways to get there that, if smartly pursued, are business friendly, create jobs and allow us to give our children and grandchildren the natural legacy they and we deserve."

The Good Life

ENERGY IS BASIC TO LIFE — AND TO CLIMATE CHANGE

By Alvin Urquhart



ALVIN URQUHART
*emeritus professor of
geography and
environmental studies at
the University of Oregon*

What does this mean for the immediate crisis, which is climate change? Unless the subsidies and cheap credit extended to fossil fuel extractors are seen as a way of shoring up the economy of consumption at the expense of polluting nature, and unless we now drastically reduce our use of fossil fuels, the possibility of containing climate change in the immediate future is extraordinarily limited. Only through immediate and drastic action can the tipping points in the natural system be avoided.

The only possible way to rapidly slow climate change and to ease into a civilization that is no longer based on cheap or subsidized energy is to tax heavily all fossil fuels at the point of their extraction or importation. That will require political and economic leadership to see that all people do not suffer from the inevitable consequences of impacts of the new indirect tax.

But what to do from the bottom up? We must all understand that energy is basic to all life. Technologies and societies based on perpetual growth ignore this. We must recognize that our political, social, economic and cultural systems are part of a natural ecology that is fundamental to all organic existence. If we do so, we will need to find ways to live joyous lives in greater simplicity.

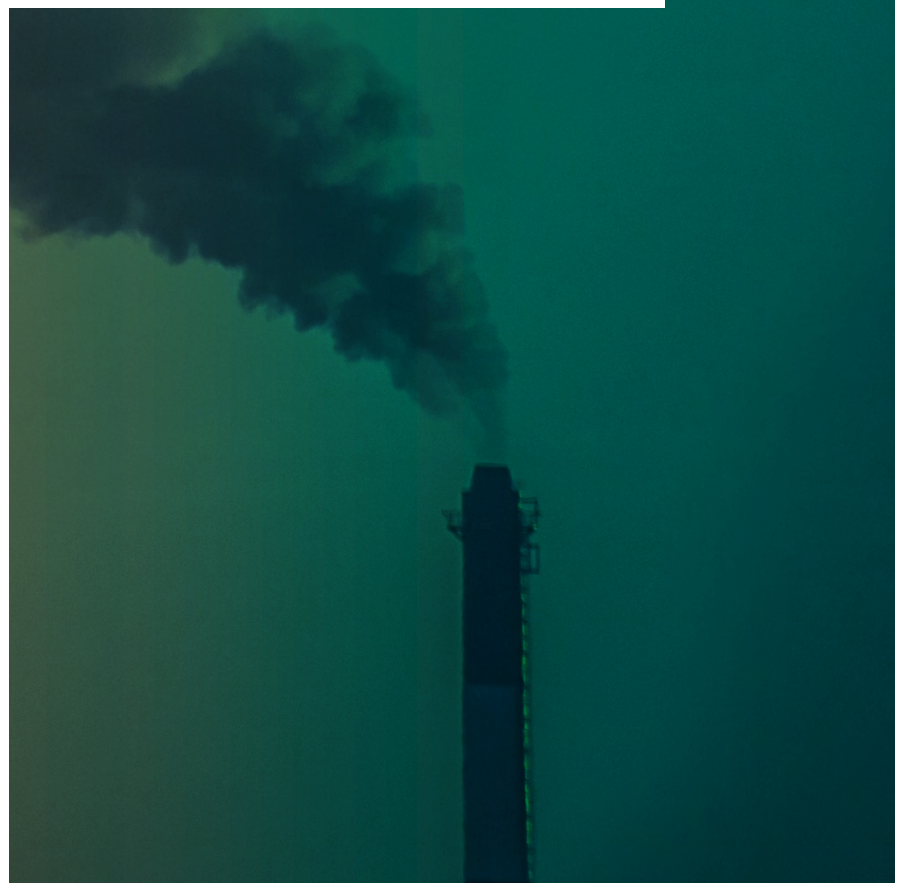
All life is based on energy. For all but the last 150 years, almost every creature on Earth depended on renewable energy for its needs and wants. But since the mid 19th century, humans have increasingly used fossil fuel energy to supply not only their needs but also their wants. This has resulted in longer lives, better health, a panoply of goods and services that mark modern life as well as the increase in population from less than 2 billion people to nearly 8 billion today.

Desire for growth and progress drives our society. However, in addition to the benefits of the goods and services of contemporary life, we have recently become aware of pollution of lands, seas and air as by products of creating “the good life.”

The pollution that is climate change has received most attention because its physical effects have been widely experienced directly. And scientists tell us that if action is not taken very soon, global warming may reach a tipping point, at which time unpredictable and irreversible changes in the natural systems of the Earth will occur. Therefore we have come to see that the good life has great consequences in the real world of matter and energy in which we are embedded.

We have temporarily maintained the good life based on economics created by human ingenuity that largely ignores natural ecology. It sees natural resources as unlimited or substitutable by technologic advances in science and technology. Because science and technology have been so successful in making fossil fuels useful, we have also looked to them to find technical ways to break free from pollution caused by burning coal, oil and gas.

Technology may be developed to eliminate or greatly reduce the use of fossil fuels. But technology does not address the economic, political and social ways of implementing its solutions. Economists, politicians and others in society have been unable to approach the problem of climate change. That’s either because they are truly unaware of the ways in which energy is embedded in the physical world ecology, or because they do not want to admit the consequences of including natural ecology in their thinking — because to do so would require radical and very unpopular changes in policy.



“sure.” For when it comes to complex dynamical systems, like weather, small changes in initial conditions can have profound effects on eventual outcomes.

But what if it's not a butterfly? What if it's a typhoon?

JET SET

Latent heat is mysterious to human senses. This “hidden” energy only becomes available when water undergoes a phase change — for instance, when rising vapor condenses into liquid droplets, as happens in a typhoon.

Drop by drop, it's inconsequential. But as typhoons suck up vast amounts of moist air — which then rises, cools and condenses — the amount of energy that emerges is staggering. By one estimate, it may be 200 times greater than what the entire global energy industry can generate in a single day. The latent heat is drawn within the eye of the storm and released into the upper troposphere, pushing upward on this part of the atmosphere wherever the storm goes.

That's what Bavi, Maysak and Haishen were doing in late August and early September. That's also what appears to have happened in September 1995, when Typhoon Oscar ravaged Japan, killing eight people and destroying hundreds of homes before heading back out to sea. By most accounts, that's where the storm died, as most storms begin to do at a similar point in their lifecycle. But when a team led by atmospheric scientist Heather Archambault reanalyzed Oscar's path, more than 15 years later, they saw something more: The remnants of the storm had traveled north and met up with the jet stream, amplifying the intensity of polar-circulating barriers of high and low pressure, known as Rossby waves. These waves play an outsized role in shaping weather across the middle and higher latitudes — and in particular wind, which is the movement of air from higher to lower pressure areas. Oscar's bump, Archambault and her colleagues concluded, had intensified a massive high pressure system over the United States.

The result was an early season cold-air outbreak. The freezing winds that tore through the Midwest in late September of that year resulted in the earliest freeze on record for more than a half-dozen cities.

The chain of events studied by Archambault's team bore a striking resemblance to what transpired in the western U.S. in September of this year.

But was it a similar phenomenon? Did one unprecedented weather event beget another, an entire ocean away? An analysis of forecast and observed weather data suggests it may have done just that.

CHASING WAVES

In a world of endless butterflies, identifying the one responsible for starting a meteorological event isn't easy.

But when it comes to disturbances that impact Rossby waves, there is a tool that can help — an equation developed by University of Tokyo physicists Koutarou Takaya and Hisashi Nakamura that has been used by thousands of atmospheric scientists to derive “wave activity flux.” The equations help researchers infer where energy was emitted and absorbed thousands of feet into the atmosphere, and can be used to track flux across long expanses. This tool is especially handy for determining the cumulative impacts of events — or the energy propagated by three typhoons.

Sure enough, along with National Center for Atmospheric Research pressure data from late August through early September, the equations help create a picture of an eastward propagating flux that begins with each typhoon and travels across the North Pacific.

The data indicates that Bavi, the first of the western Pacific storms, generated a flux of wave activity to its immediate east and, four days later, a corresponding increased flux appeared over the Gulf of Alaska. The process was repeated — perhaps with strongest effect — in the wake of Maysak, and again following Haishen. Each time the flux appears to have helped crank up the volume of a Rossby wave configuration that was setting up over the western United States.

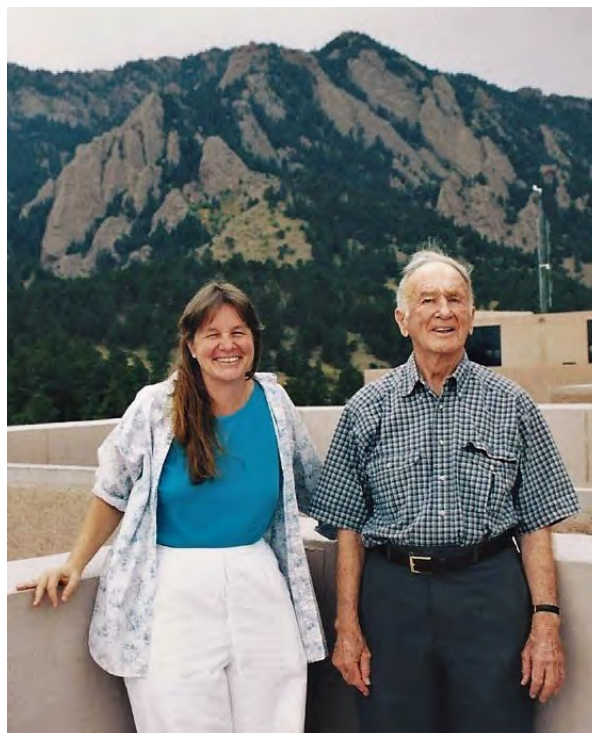
In figurative and ultimately literal terms, that was fuel to the fire, because disparities in atmospheric pressure,

such as the extreme differences found between the ridges and troughs of Rossby waves, result in air movement from higher to lower pressure areas, which in turn results in wind. And in early September a western ridge of hot and dry air was already precariously stationed above North America.

It's possible, of course, that the extreme winds could have occurred even without the extra bump to the system. For that reason, it's helpful to consider what might have happened if those additional waves had not entered the system — a complex hypothetical question that can be examined with data from the Global Ensemble Forecast System, which is used by meteorologists to predict different possible weather scenarios by generating a

‘DOES THE FLAP OF A BUTTERFLY’S WINGS IN BRAZIL SET OFF A TORNADO IN TEXAS? IN MORE TECHNICAL LANGUAGE, IS THE BEHAVIOR OF THE ATMOSPHERE UNSTABLE WITH RESPECT TO PERTURBATIONS OF SMALL AMPLITUDE?’

— EDWARD LORENZ



NIRAJA CHERYL LORENZ AND
HER FATHER, EDWARD LORENZ
Photo courtesy Merry Song

diversity of forecasts, each minutely different from original observations. With this system, it is possible to look at scenarios that embrace a trove of potential weather conditions.

It is also possible to look at weather scenarios that missed something important — the typhoons. In forecasts that play out without accurate realizations of the three typhoons, the severe amplification of the Rossby waves, the most powerful driver of winds over North America, is greatly reduced.

A lot of conditions would have to align in order to make this particular meteorological domino effect occur again. But those conditions may be growing more common.

ON WARMING SEAS

Typhoons are born in warm seas.

It might seem to stand to reason, then, that warming seas would give rise to more frequent cyclonic storms. But sea-surface temperatures are only one of many variables affecting typhoon development. Humidity also plays a role. So do atmospheric instability and the strength of existing winds.

Given the way climate change is impacting those other variables, Young-Hwa Byun, the director of the Climate Research Division at the National Institute of Meteorological Research in Korea, believes it's possible

that the number of typhoons in the Pacific might actually decrease.

But in the past, the cooler waters around Korea served as a buffer to typhoon development. If sea-surface temperatures rise, it could increase the likelihood that whatever storms are born in the tropics will hold their strength as they move north.

“Even if the number of typhoon occurrences is not very different from the present or is somewhat smaller,” Byun says, “I think that once a typhoon occurs, it may be a strong typhoon.”

All of this rests on the notion that the waters in the west Pacific are, in fact, warming. And that, like so many climate stories, is complicated. Several recent years have been among the warmest on record for sea surface temperatures in this area, but it is also an area known for significant multi-decadal variability, and quickly fluctuating warm and cold patches.

In the month in which Bavi, Maysak and Haishen were born, in fact, the seas immediately surrounding the Korean peninsula were actually a bit cooler than a 30-year average of the same month taken from 1980 to 2010, according to data from the Japan Meteorological Agency. But that same comparison shows a very warm region of ocean south of Japan, which may have been a great source of potential fuel for typhoons.

“It is known that sea surface temperatures in the southern Sea of Japan and Philippine Sea, where typhoons affecting the Korean peninsula are created, have risen to a maximum of 30 to 31 degrees Celsius,” says Suryun Ham, a climate scientist at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Climate Center in Korea. That's about 10 percent warmer than long-term observations and models have suggested is normal in those waters, Ham notes.

“The typhoon created in this way,” she says, “advances further north than before.”

That, in turn, could increase the chances that a storm could travel far enough north to connect with the jet stream, thereby adding its energy to pressure waves that will ultimately affect weather in North America.

THE DRAGONS IN BLUE RIVER

Even if far-away storms weren't exacerbating fire conditions in Blue River, and beyond, wouldn't something else? Many scientists believe, after all, that the planet has already been pushed past the point of no return.

“Even if we removed all carbon from the atmosphere tomorrow,” says climate scientist Danielle Lemmon, a post-doctoral researcher at the University of Busan, “the Earth would still be in a transient warming state, and we would still need to mitigate those effects.”

But Lemmon is not defeated.

“Some people may call that ‘doomsday alarmism,’” they say. “I call it an opportunity for us to do what humans have always done best — collectivize and problem solve the issues at hand.”

Among those issues: Higher temperatures and deeper droughts have turned the West into a tinderbox. And sure, in that world, the typhoons-to-fires connection might be nothing more than another butterfly in a world of fire-breathing dragons.

But a month after fleeing Blue River, as she checked out of the latest in a series of hotels en route to look for an apartment — perhaps for as much as a year to come as her family home is repaired — Nancy Behm was still fixated on that mighty wind.

She'd left her home with little more than a laundry basket of her belongings, driving down a road lined with flames, “just like the videos you see.”

The heat was surprising, she says, but the wind was astonishing.

“It was creating all these sparks, blowing smoke, blowing debris this way and that,” she recalls.

“If you've ever started a fire with bellows, you know what a difference it makes. That's exactly what it was like. That's what the wind was doing.” ■

Matthew D. LaPlante and Jacob Stuijvenvold Allen are co-authors, along with S.Y. Simon Wang and Jin-Ho Yoon, of a study on how consecutive typhoons in the western Pacific may have contributed to extreme weather events in the western U.S. The study has been accepted for publication in the journal Geophysical Research Letters. None of the individuals quoted in this article were involved in the study.



In these times of stress and isolation, Vista Wellness of Eugene and yoga instructor Jen Champion are preaching “cheer, comfort and togetherness” with **free yoga classes** through at least the early part of next year. Champion and other instructors at Vista Wellness lead classes that range from movement and mindfulness for children to chair yoga as well as yoga classes for frontline health care workers during the pandemic. You can go fast and work up a sweat, Champion says, or go slow and find inner calmness. “This has enabled people to get together from across the U.S.,” Champion says. “It is far-reaching.” And it is much needed, Champion adds, “to just contribute to the community, perhaps for the next six months. It’s just a gift from Vista.” So roll out the mat, Vista Wellness is ready to lead.

More information about free yoga classes on Zoom for children and adults as well as health care workers at Vista Wellness can be found at VistaPsych.com. — *Dan Buckwalter*

GENERAL

LISTINGS ARE FREE UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

ACTIVIST ALERT

Thursday, Dec. 10: Fighting for Justice in a Broken System – CLDC’s Legal Work Over the Years, 3-5pm. More info at CLDC.org.

Wednesday, Dec. 16: Tribal Water Justice - EJP Webinar, noon-1:30pm. More info at EJPsummit.org.

HEALTH

Zoom classes at YMCA.org.
Zoom workout classes at CrossFit. Email Contact@CrossFitIntensify.com for more info.

Workout classes at IAMForeverStrong.com.

Workout classes at Evolve Fitness Studios. More info at EvolveFitnessStudios.com Facebook page.

Yoga classes at EugeneYoga.us; WildLightYogaCenter.com; EugeneMudra.com; HotYogaEugeneBalanced.com; YogaEugene.com.

All levels of yoga (chair, advanced, yoga for health care workers and children) at Vista Wellness Center. Visit VistaPsych.com for more info.

HOLIDAYS

Lights at The Village Green (thru Dec. 31), Village Green, 725 Row River Rd, Cottage Grove. Tickets \$5 in advance. More info at TheVillageGreen.com.

ART EXHIBITS

Eugene First Friday Art Walk, Dec. 4 thru 11. More info at LaneArts.org.

Art for All Seasons Membership Show and Club

Mud Holiday Sale (online & in-person reservations thru Dec. 18), MKartcenter.org.

Eugene Contemporary art presents Reflections Space: Open video exhibition (thru Dec. 21), 5pm, Anti-Aesthetic, 245 W. 8th Ave.

Clay Fest Online (thru Dec. 31), all day. More info at ClayFestOnline.com.

“Overview” - Acrylic Paintings by Jon Jay Cruson (thru Dec. 31), White Lotus Gallery, 767 Willamette St.

Adam Grosowsky: “No Direction Home” (thru Jan. 16), Karin Clarke Gallery, 760 Willamette St.

Moments In Nature by Greg Giesy at PhotoZone Gallery (thru Dec. 29), PhotoZone Gallery, 22 W. 7th Ave.

Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, JSMA.Uoregon.edu.

MARKETS

Gifts from Makers, Artists & Bakers; a Holiday Market in Veneta (thru Dec. 14), noon-6pm, The Emporium, 88170 Territorial Hwy, Veneta.

Cozy & Connected Virtual Winter Market (thru Dec. 20). More info at WhiteakerCommunityMarket.com.

ONLINE LECTURES/CLASSES

Job Search Help by appointment at the downtown library. Call 541-686-7985 to schedule.

FAMILY/KIDS

Little Wonders: Traditional Foods (thru Dec. 17), all day. More info at MNCH.Uoregon.edu.

RECREATION

Civic Park Adult (18+) Drop-in Soccer (thru December), Tuesday evenings & Sunday

mornings. More info at EugeneCivicAlliance.org.

THURSDAY

DECEMBER 10

BENEFITS

Ophelia’s Place Virtual Bingo Night, 6:30pm. More info at OpheliasPlace.net.

HEALTH

NAMI Family Support Zoom Group @ NamiLane.org, 7pm. RSVP at NamiLane.org.

LECTURES/CLASSES

Meaningful Holidays, 6-7:30pm. More info at MeditateInEugene.org. \$2.

ON THE AIR

"The Point," 9am, KOPV, 88.0 FM

"Arts Journal," 9pm, Comcast channel 29

Thursday Night Jazz, 10pm, KLCC, 89.7 FM

SPIRITUAL

Zen Meditation, 7am, Blue Cliff Zen Ctr, 439 W. 2nd Ave.

FRIDAY

DECEMBER 11

BENEFITS

7th Annual Holiday Ugly Sweater Contest, 4:30-6:30pm. More info at KindTree.org or at 541-780-6950.

GATHERINGS

City Club of Eugene (“Election 2020 - What Happened & Why”), noon, City Club of Eugene Facebook page & YouTube page. Airs again on Monday, Dec. 14 at 7pm on KLCC, 89.7 FM

Food Not Bombs, cooking starts at noon (email EugeneFoodNotBombs@gmail.com for location), serves at 4pm at Park Blocks next to fountains.

Holiday Gift Reads: Live Online w/ Eugene Public Library, 6pm, bit.ly/EugGiftReads.

LECTURES/CLASSES

EPL Foundation lecture series (conversation w/ Andrew Whitehead), noon. Link at EPLFoundation.org.

MUSIC

Friday Night Folk Music Live Stream, 7pm. More info at KathrynRoseCelticFolkFestival.com Facebook page.

SPIRITUAL

Healing with Spiritual Light, 7-9pm. More info at LeiaHart.com.

Zen Meditation (instruction provided), 7pm, Zoom only at BlueCliffCenter.org.

THEATER

Uh, Christmas... Carole (a musical), 7pm, by Pegasus Playhouse. Link at PegasusPlayhouse.com. \$20 sug. Donation per family.

SATURDAY

DECEMBER 12

ART/CRAFT

Galleria at the Smith Artist Marketplace, noon-6pm, Smith Family Annex, 768 E. 13th Ave.

FARMERS MARKETS

Holiday Farmers Market, 10am-2pm, Park Blocks, E. 8th Ave & Oak St.

GATHERINGS

Burrito Brigade, 9:30am-3:30pm. More info at BurritoBrigade.org.

HOLIDAY MARKETS

Eugene Holiday Market, 10am-3pm, Park Blocks, E. 8th Ave. & Oak St.

LECTURES/CLASSES

Intro to Ancestry.com, 9-11am. More info at OregonGongs.org. \$10.

Oregon Coast Humane Society workshop on building homes for community cats. Outdoor workshop. RSVP at 541-997-4277.

ON THE AIR

The Dr. Yeti Show, 10pm-midnight, KOCF, 92.5 FM or streamed at KOCF.org.

The Institute of Spectra Sound, 10pm-midnight, KEPW, 97.3 FM

RECREATION

2nd Saturday Trivia - on the patio and under the tent, 5-7pm, Viking Braggot Company, 520 Commercial St Unit F.

SUNDAY

DECEMBER 13

ART/CRAFT

Galleria at the Smith Artist Marketplace, noon-6pm, Smith Family Annex, 768 E. 13th Ave.

HEALTH

Occupy Medical, noon-4pm, 1717 Centennial Blvd, Springfield.

HOLIDAY

Advent Lessons & Carols, Central Lutheran Church. Link at WelcometoCentral.org.

Eugene Concert Choir w/ special guest Diane Retalack. Link at EugeneConcertChoir.org.

LECTURES/CLASSES

Weekly Guided Meditation & Dharma Talk w/ Tulku Jigme Rinpoche, 10am-noon. More info at PalmoCenter.org. Sug. donation \$15.

SPIRITUAL

Zen Meditation, 4:30pm, Blue Cliff Zen Center, 439 W. 2nd Ave.

Eugene Insight Meditation via Zoom, 6:30pm, EugenelnSight.com.

MONDAY

DECEMBER 14

HEALTH

Connection Peer Support Group at NamiLane.org, 7pm. RSVP at NamiLane.org.

KIDS/FAMILY

"Oregon's Amazing Animals" Kits for Kids, all day (while supplies last) at all Eugene

Library branches. More info at 541-682-5450.

LECTURES/CLASSES

Lunchtime Meditation, noon-12:30pm. More info at MeditateInEugene.org. \$1.

Meaningful Holidays, 6-7:30pm. More info at MeditateInEugene.org. \$2.

TUESDAY

DECEMBER 15

KIDS/FAMILY

Family Storytime, 11am, Eugene Public Library Facebook page.

LECTURES/CLASSES

Grow Your Business w/ Google (Eugene Public Library), 10am. RSVP Zoom link at Willamette.Score.org.

Lunchtime Meditation, noon-12:30pm. More info at MeditateInEugene.org. \$1.

Free Kids Movement and Mindfulness Class, 3-3:45pm. More info at VistaPsych.com.

Lamrim Practice, 6-7:30pm, Online. More info at MeditateInEugene.org. \$2.

Bringing Anti-Racist Practices & Love Into the Treatment of Psychosis, 6:30-8:30pm. Zoom link at Zoom.us/j/5415131811.

SPIRITUAL

Zen Meditation, 7am, Blue Cliff Zen Center, 439 W. 2nd Ave.

WEDNESDAY

DECEMBER 16

LECTURES/CLASSES

Women in Transition Information Sessions, 10-11am. More info at Lanec.edu.

Lunchtime Meditation, noon-12:30pm. More info at MeditateInEugene.org. \$1.

Universal Compassion, 6-7:30pm. More info at MeditateInEugene.org. \$2.

The Rejects Club, 6:30-8:30pm. More info at WordCrafters.org. FREE-\$10.

Calm-Abiding Meditation, 7-7:30pm. More info at PalmoCenter.org.

SPIRITUAL

Zen Meditation, 7am, Blue Cliff Zen Center, 439 W. 2nd Ave.

THURSDAY

DECEMBER 17

FILM

Springfilm: *Lovely, Still* - Live Stream and Film Discussion, 7pm. More info at 541-726-3766 Monday thru Saturday, 10am to 5pm.

HEALTH

NAMI Family Support Zoom Group @ NamiLane.org, 7pm. RSVP at NamiLane.org.

LECTURES/CLASSES

Meaningful Holidays, 6-7:30pm. More info at MeditateInEugene.org. \$2.

ON THE AIR

"The Point," 9am, KOPV, 88.0 FM

"Arts Journal," 9pm, Comcast channel 29

Thursday Night Jazz, 10pm, KLCC, 89.7 FM

SPIRITUAL

Zen Meditation, 7am, Blue Cliff Zen Ctr, 439 W. 2nd Ave.

ATTENTION

The COVID-19 pandemic is creating a mark on our community, a truly historic event that may have lasting effect generations from now. The Lane County History Museum needs the help of our entire community to document this experience for future exhibits, researchers and Lane County residents to look back at generations from now. A single event can be experienced differently. LCHM wants to capture a variety of perspectives and experiences of people, but also of businesses and other organizations. How did you adapt to this new environment, what did you choose to do or have to do differently? This collection is not just for adults — the museum emphasizes that the goal is to capture the experiences of all ages. Childhood possessions, artwork or oral experiences are most often collected after we have grown. By collecting these directly from young people, we can get a more authentic experience. To get more information on this collection campaign, and how you, your business or organization can submit an item to be considered, go to our website at <https://www.lchm.org/covid-collection/>. Due to the pandemic the museum is currently closed to the public. If your submission is chosen you will be contacted once the museum is able to safely welcome people and artifacts.

With the passage of Ballot Measure 109 in the recent election, allowing the manufacturer, delivery and administration of psilocybin at supervised, licensed facilities, Oregon Governor Kate Brown is now seeking applicants for the Oregon Psilocybin Advisory Board. This board makes recommendations to the Oregon Health Authority on the requirements, specifications and guidelines for providing psilocybin services in the state. There are many criteria, and for more information and to apply, submit the following documentation to executive.appointments@oregon.gov by Jan. 1, 2021: A completed executive appointment interest form, which is available on the Governor's office website at http://www.oregon.gov/gov/admin/Pages/How_To_Apply.aspx. A resume or brief biographical sketch. A brief statement of interest. For more information, email oha.psilocybin@dhsosha.state.or.us or contact André Ourso, OHA Public Health Division, at 971-673-0404.

The independent, listener supported and non-commercial KEPW (97.3 FM) is looking to fill volunteer positions ranging from announcers and producers, writers, PR, social media, data entry and other positions, with or without broadcast experience for progressive, inspiring and inclusive radio. KEPW is committed to a non-hierarchical internal structure where enthusiasm and passion is highly valued and leadership skills are appreciated. For more information, contact KEPW at 541-833-0622 or email Staff@kepw.org.

Holiday HOT LIST

A product of the EW Advertising Department

Illustration by Chelsea Lovejoy

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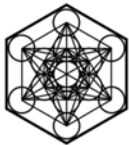
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Go Tell It on the Mountain

POPULAR EUGENE LIVE BAND **JUDO PONY** RETURNS WITH DEBUT RELEASE AFTER SIX-YEAR HIATUS

By Will Kennedy

About a decade ago, Judo Pony was a popular live band in Eugene, playing light punk and alternative-influenced, '90s-style guitar rock.

In 2010, Judo Pony entered Last Band Standing, a battle of the bands-style competition sponsored by Eugene new rock radio station KNRQ. They made it to the finals. Their sound, also integrating elements of No Depression alternative country and soul music, was rendered with the tenacity of a hard-gigging road band.

"We had some success, and lots of folks were coming out," Judo Pony singer, guitarist, and primary songwriter Jason Johnson tells me over the phone.

Despite that early success, the band went dormant.

"I wouldn't say the band broke up," Johnson says. "We just lost momentum." Nevertheless, in October of this year of this year, Judo Pony finally released its debut full-length album, *Paper Mountains*.

Almost all the tracks on the finished product were recorded while the band was more active. All that was

left to do was polish them. For personal and professional reasons, though, the album remained incomplete. That unfinished business troubled Johnson.

"As time went by, we couldn't get to a spot where we could get the thing finished," he says. "We were knee-deep in our man hours recording this thing, and we wanted our efforts to pay off."

In his early 20s, Johnson signed a record deal with Micah Records in Northridge, California. His band, Forty Save One, built a following of its own, playing pop-punk Christian guitar rock in the mid-'90s. Raised in Eugene, Johnson tells me that he grew up in a conservative Christian household. "As a good Christian kid, I thought I should write some good Christian music." At the time, Johnson and his band supported artists like MXPX, Switchfoot and P.O.D. — big-name crossover acts at the time, with followings outside of Christian music.

Despite that success, Johnson some became disillusioned with the scene, calling it a "crock of shit."

"It just wasn't my thing," he says,

Though turned off on Christian rock, Johnson never stopped making music, playing in a series of bands — most notably Speedshift, who signed to Arkham Records out of Portland, and, of course, Judo Pony, which never signed a deal, despite a strong local audience.

With Judo Pony, including Sam Wartenbee on bass guitar and vocals and Ben Schaaf on drums and vocals, Johnson wanted to move away from Christian rock, looking instead toward alternative country artists like The Jayhawks as well as classic country like Hank Snow — the sort of stuff his grandparents listened to.

Also influencing Johnson were soul and R&B artists like Joe Cocker and Stevie Wonder, evidenced by the climactic riot of horns from *Paper Mountains* closer "Charity," just one of many fan-favorites featured on the album.

Above all else, though, *Paper Mountains* is like a time capsule from guitar rock's last great heyday — the '90s. It's a solid, well-executed return to form, reflecting Johnson's love for bands like U2 and The Lemonheads as well as alt country.

"I've wanted to take the Judo Pony stuff," he says, "but throw more of the '90s pop-rock vibe: less horns and pedal steel, but the same kind of feeling behind it. Ultimately all of that infused itself into the album that's out now."

After all these years, Johnson still loves the songs on the record and feels they're just as relevant as they were when the band played them live nearly a decade ago. "Even more, given the political and social climate in the world right now," he adds.

"All these songs were written either from my own humanity, or trying to tell the story of somebody else's humanity. If I write something and it doesn't move me, there's no way it's going to move someone else," he says. "I felt that this is the time to get this thing out because people are struggling: so much use versus them: how do we get through this together?"

Wartenbee says having the album finally released feels like one of those I-thought-the-day-would-never-come scenarios. "I'm grateful, and incredibly proud of it — it's easily in the top five or 10 albums I've ever worked on," he says. ■

Paper Mountains is out now on all major music streaming services and on CD from Take92.com and FusionBombRecords.com.


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An Oregon Overview

with **Eliza Canty-Jones**

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7:00-9:00 P.M. VIA ZOOM (RSVP REQUIRED)
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The Geometry of Landscape

JON JAY CRUSON'S PAINTING EXHIBITION AT WHITE LOTUS GALLERY OFFERS A RELAXING RURAL ESCAPE

By Emily Topping

When Jon Jay Cruson heads into nature to find inspiration for his large acrylic landscapes, he brings only a Sharpie and a pad of paper. Once he's scouted the perfect spot — perhaps a patch of grass along a hillside, at a tall enough height to see the geometric plots of farmland spread on the valley floor below — he sketches a series of loose lines.

"The process takes maybe a minute," Cruson says. After bringing a small stack of sketches back to his Eugene studio, Cruson begins the process of transforming the drawings into those large acrylic paintings. He works without a time limit, instead allowing each piece to develop organically as he sees fit. Sometimes this takes a couple days, other times a month.

The result is a series of impressively vast landscape pieces with a pastel palette reminiscent of a 1960s ice cream truck. Cruson's work leans toward the abstract, though his pieces feel familiar to anyone who's spent time along the rural west coast.

"I've never worked from photographs," Cruson says. "It feels too restrictive."

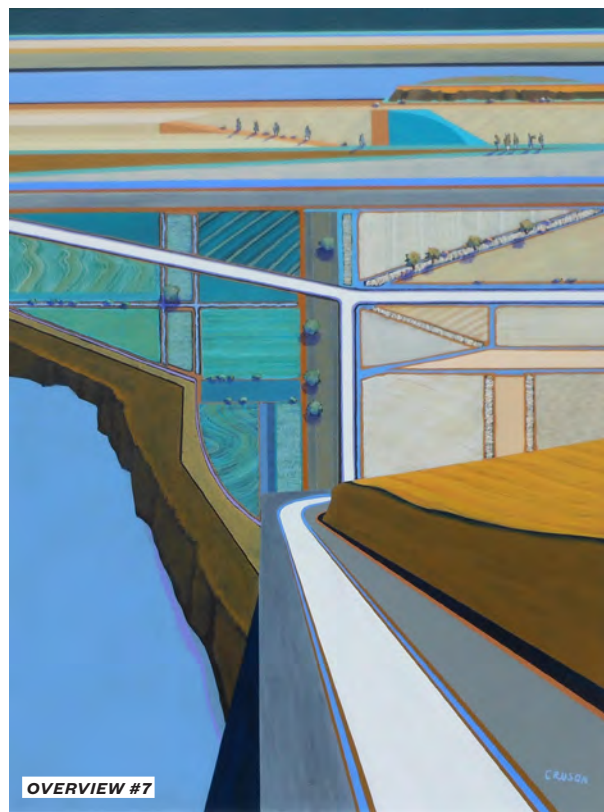
Instead, Cruson relies on a lifetime of experience spent outdoors in California and Oregon. He grew up in Woodland, a town outside of Sacramento, "amongst the tomatoes, the wheat, the barley." His work brings to mind the "wide open spaces and bright skies" of his childhood.

Cruson attended the University of Oregon, graduating in 1967 with a master of fine arts in painting, drawing and printmaking. When one of his professors left the university on sabbatical, he took over teaching a class on lithography — a classical printmaking process in which an image is drawn on a plastic or metal plate with an oily polymer coating, and then transferred to paper.

Cruson's experience teaching allowed him to help develop his own style as an artist. "I find teaching extremely rewarding," he says. "You see students approach art and their work in ways you'd never thought of."

After he left teaching, Cruson went on to open his own litho studio in Corvallis, which he maintained for 37 years.

Although his current work is created using acrylic



paint, the geometric shapes and contrasting lines of Cruson's landscapes reflect his extensive background in printmaking. The magic in Cruson's work lies not in detailed depictions of each tree and riverbend, but in the general curves of a valley terrain that somehow feels intimate to each viewer.

An exhibition of 13 of Jon Cruson's paintings is on display at White Lotus Gallery at 767 Willamette Street until Dec. 31. The gallery remains open during the pandemic with masks and social-distancing required indoors. Hours are 10 am to 4 pm Tuesday through Saturday and by appointment. More info at WLotus.com.

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Jonesin' Crossword

BY MATT JONES
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Across

1 "Breaking Bad" sidekick
6 Written test format
11 Some mainframe computers
15 Follow, as an impulse
16 Pleas
18 QUESTION, PART 1
20 Cry bitterly
21 Blows away
22 ___ St. Soul (U.K. R&B/soul group)
23 Controversial ride-sharing app
25 Fall back, as a tide
26 ASPCA part
29 QUESTION, PART 2
34 "Forrest Gump" actor Gary
35 "The Man Who Mistook His Wife for ___" (1985 best-seller)
36 "Laugh-In" comedian Johnson

37 Like many indie films
38 "Buon giorno," in Brisbane
39 Go over the limit
40 Green Day, e.g.
41 "Sorry if ___ you down"
42 NBA team formerly from Minneapolis
43 QUESTION, PART 3
46 Charlemagne's realm, for short
47 Device program
48 Cranberry sources
49 Greek letter after zeta
50 "Battlefield Earth" author Hubbard
52 Director Van Sant
55 ANSWER TO THE QUESTION
61 Closest to the ground, stature-wise
62 Otherworldly
63 Mgr.'s helper
64 Creator of Yertle the Turtle

65 Laundry cycle

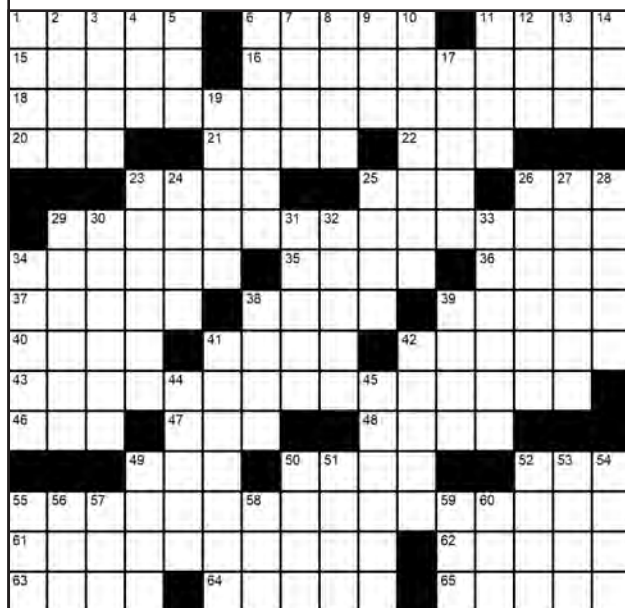
Down

1 Movie score with a famous two-note motif
2 Bounce back
3 Aimless attempt
4 Imbiber
5 Grind to a halt
6 Milne's mopey donkey
7 Flaky precipitation
8 Comedians Gilliam and Goldsmith, for two
9 Rainbow shape
10 "While that might be true ..."
11 "___ be here soon"
12 Took the bait
13 "I really don't care"
14 157.5 degrees from N
17 It's a likely story
19 "You ___ one"
23 Sleep aid brand
24 Like a shopping mall on

"Shell Game"

—maybe that's why it's green.

Black Friday, ordinarily
25 Online selling site
26 Wall, for one
27 Playful aquatic animals
28 Dated term for college students
29 Site for reflection?
30 Prompt
31 Corvair investigator Ralph
32 "They went ___-way"
33 Actress Lauren of 2020's "The Wrong Missy"
34 Louis Armstrong's nickname
38 Unidentifiable cafeteria food
39 Did some karaoke
41 Repercussions
42 "Ghost Town" actress Tea
44 Irritate
45 Fastening bars shaped like letters
49 Louisiana, to Louis
50 In ___ of (replacing)
51 Monica Geller's brother
52 Jack-o'-lantern look
53 College team from Salt Lake City
54 "Auld Lang ___"
55 "Don't text and drive" ad, for short
56 Acuity measures that don't really matter
57 Questionable, in "Among Us," slangily
58 Hustle, quaintly
59 High-jump hurdle
60 Peyton's sibling



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PANDA KPOP SHED
ONEOF ALVA HYDE
COUNTS SHEEP EPIC
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KOLANUT NATO
IDEA RIGHTON
FUMEO WOK SIRE
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FREE WILL ASTROLOGY BY ROB BREZSNY

ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19): According to Taoist scholar Chad Hansen, “Western philosophers have endlessly analyzed and dissected a cluster of terms thought to be central to our thinking,” such as truth, beauty, reason, knowledge, belief, mind and goodness. But he reports that they’ve never turned their attention to a central concept of Chinese philosophy: the Tao, which might be defined as the natural, unpredictable flow of life’s ever-changing rhythms. I think that you Aries people, more than any other sign of the zodiac, have the greatest potential to cultivate an intuitive sense of how to align yourselves vigorously with the Tao. And you’re in prime time to do just that.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20): What’s the cause of the rumbling at the core of your soul? How do we explain the smoke and steam that are rising from the lower depths? From what I can discern, the fire down below and the water down below are interacting to produce an almost supernatural state of volatile yet numinous grace. This is a good thing! You may soon begin having visions of eerie loveliness and earth-shaking peace. The clarity that will eventually emerge may at first seem dark, but if you maintain your poise it will bloom like a thousand moons.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20): Author and student Raquel Isabelle de Alderete writes wittily about her paradoxical desires and contradictory qualities. In accordance with current astrological omens, I encourage you to ruminate about your own. For inspiration, read her testimony: “I want to be untouchably beautiful but I also don’t want to care about how I look. I want to be at the top of my class but I also just want to do as best as I can without driving myself to the edge. I want to be a mystery that’s open to everybody. A romantic that never falls in love. Both the bird and the cat.”

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22): What would it take for you to muster just a bit more courage so as to change what needs to be changed? How could you summon the extra excitement and willpower necessary to finally make progress on a dilemma that has stumped you? I’m happy to inform you that cosmic rhythms will soon be shifting in such a way as to make these breakthroughs more possible. For best results, shed any tendencies you might have to feel sorry for yourself or to believe you’re powerless.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22): Novelist Tom Robbins says you have the power to change how you perceive the world. You can change reality — and how reality responds to you — by the way you look at it and interpret it. This counsel is especially useful for you right now, Leo. You have an unparalleled opportunity to reconfigure the way you apprehend things and thereby transform the world you live in. So I suggest you set your intention. Vow that for the next two weeks, every experience will bring you a fresh invitation to find out something you didn’t know before.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22): India’s Prime Minister Narendra Modi was re-elected in 2019. During his campaign, the Virgo-born politician arranged to be photographed while wearing the saffron robes of a Hindu priest and meditating in an austere Himalayan cave. Why did he do it? To appeal to religious voters. But later it was revealed that the “cave” was in a cozy retreat center that provides regular meals, electricity, phone service and attentive attendants. It will be crucial for you to shun this type of fakery in 2021, Virgo. Your success will depend on you being as authentic, genuine and honest as you can possibly be. Now is an excellent time to set your intention and start getting yourself in that pure frame of mind.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22): When author Ernest Hemingway was working on the manuscript for his novel *A Farewell to Arms*, he asked his colleague F. Scott Fitzgerald to offer critique. Fitzgerald obliged with a 10-page analysis that advised a different ending, among other suggestions. Hemingway wasn’t pleased. “Kiss my ass,” he wrote back to Fitzgerald. I suggest a different approach for you, Libra. In my view, now is a good time to solicit feedback and mirroring from trusted allies. What do they think and how do they feel about the current state of your life and work? If they do respond, take at least some of it to heart.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21): Mistletoe is a parasite that grows on trees, weakening them. On the other hand, it has been a sacred plant in European tradition. People once thought it conferred magical protection. It was called “all-heal” and regarded as a medicine that could cure numerous illnesses. Even today, it’s used in Europe as a remedy for colon cancer. And of course mistletoe is also an icon meant to encourage kissing. After studying your astrological potentials, I’m proposing that mistletoe serve as one of your symbolic power objects in the coming months. Why? Because I suspect that you will regularly deal with potencies and energies that could potentially be either problematic or regenerative. You’ll have to be alert to ensure that they express primarily as healing agents.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21): I’m envisioning a scene in which you’re sitting on a chair at a kitchen table. At the center of the table is a white vase holding 18 long-stemmed red roses. The rest of the table’s surface is filled with piles of money, which you have just unloaded from five mysterious suitcases you found at your front door. All of that cash is yours, having been given to you no-strings-attached by an anonymous donor. You’re in joyful shock as you contemplate the implications of this miraculous gift. Your imagination floods with fantasies about how different your life can become. Now, Sagittarius, I invite you to dream up at least three further wonderfully positive fantasies involving good financial luck. That’s the medicine you need right now.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19): Boisterous Capricorn novelist Patricia Highsmith (1921-1995) once made the following New Year’s Eve Toast: “To all the devils, lusts, passions, greeds, envies, loves, hates, strange desires, enemies ghostly and real, the army of memories, with which I do battle — may they never give me peace.” Right now I suspect you may be tempted to make a similar toast. As crazy-making as your current challenges are, they are entertaining and growth-inducing. You may even have become a bit addicted to them. But in the interests of your long-term sanity, I will ask you to cut back on your “enjoyment” of all this uproar. Please consider a retreat into an intense self-nurturing phase.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18): In the French city of Strasbourg, there’s a wine cellar built in the year 1395. Among its treasures is a barrel filled with 450 liters of wine that was originally produced in 1472. According to legend, this ancient beverage has been tasted on just three occasions. The last time was to celebrate the French army’s liberation of Strasbourg from German occupation in 1944. If I had the power, I would propose serving it to you Aquarians in honor of your tribe’s heroic efforts to survive — and even thrive — during the ordeals of 2020. I’m predicting that life in 2021 will have more grace and progress because of how you have dealt with this year’s challenges.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20): There are too many authorities, experts, know-it-alls and arrogant ideologues trying to tell us all what to do and how to do it. Fortunately, the cosmic rhythms are now aligned in such a way as to help you free yourself from those despots and bullies. Here’s more good news: Cosmic rhythms are also aligned to free you from the nagging voice in your own head that harass you with fearful fantasies and threaten you with punishment if you aren’t perfect.

Homework: What’s the one thing you don’t have that would help you make the biggest improvement in your life? FreeWillAstrology.com

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LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notices

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF LANE Probate Department In the Matter of the Estate of: JOHN P. COCHRAN, Deceased. NO. 20PB08104 NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS Notice is hereby given that Lynn Shepard has been appointed and has qualified as the personal representative of the estate. All persons having claims against the estate are hereby required to present the same, with proper vouchers, within four months after the date of first publication of this notice, as stated below, to the personal representative at Lynn Shepard, C/O Chelsea Payment, Attorney at Law, 800 Willamette Street Suite 700, Eugene, Oregon 97401, or they may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings in this estate may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the personal representative, or the attorney for the per-

sonal representative. Dated and first published: 10th day of December, 2020. /s/ Lynn Shepard, Personal Representative. /s/ Chelsea H. Payment, OSB #141125 Attorney for Personal Representative

NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS ESTATE OF ARETA S. STURGES LANE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT CASE NO. 20PB07903 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed Personal Representative. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with written evidence thereof attached, to the Personal Representative John C. Gartland, c/o Janice L. Mackey, Hutchinson Cox, P.O. Box 10886, Eugene, Oregon 97440. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them within four months after the date of first publication of this notice to the Personal Representative at the address stated above for the presentation of claims or such claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by these proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the Court, the Personal Representative, or the Attorney for the Personal Representative, named above. Dated and first published 11/26/20.

NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS Claims against the Estate of Patricia Joyce Dodrill, Deceased, Lane County Circuit Court Case No. 20PB06812, are required to be presented to the Personal Representative, Taylor Dodrill at 180 East 11th Avenue, Eugene, OR 97401, within four (4) months from 12/10/20, the date of first publication, or such claims may be barred. Any person whose rights may be affected

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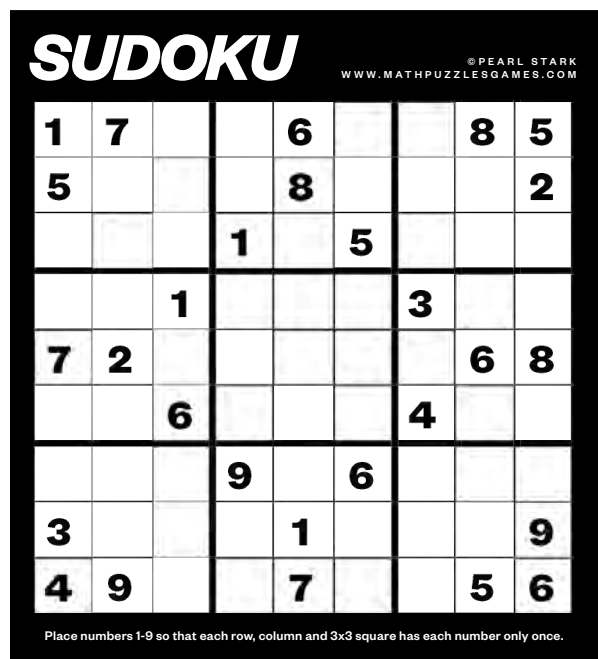


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by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the Personal Representative, or the attorneys for the Personal Representative. HERSHNER HUNTER, LLP, Attorneys.

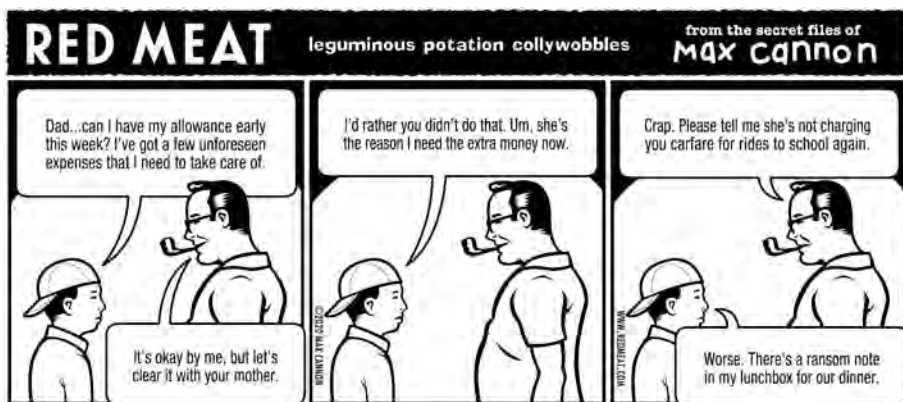
NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE STATE OF OREGON FOR LANE COUNTY - PROBATE DEPARTMENT Case No. 20PB07459 In the matter of the Estate of Paul Winthrop Lawrence, Decedent, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Karen Fabiano of Eldercare Resources, Inc. has been appointed personal representative. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with vouchers attached, to the aforementioned personal representative c/o Northwest Legal, Attn: Jinoo Hwang, 975 Oak Street, Suite 700, Eugene, OR 97401, within four months after the date of first publication of this notice, or the claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the personal representative, or attorney for the personal representative, Northwest Legal, Attn: Jinoo Hwang, 975 Oak Street, Suite 700, Eugene, OR 97401.

NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS: Probate administration proceedings in the Estate of Robin Sydney Edmunds, Deceased, are now pending in the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Lane County, Case No. 20PB07930, and Joseph J. Kite has been appointed Personal Representative of the estate. All persons having claims against



the estate are required to present the same, with proper vouchers, to the Personal Representative, c/o Gleaves Swearingen LLP, Attorneys at Law, 975 Oak Street, Suite 800, Eugene, OR 97401, within 4 months from the date of the first publication of this notice or such claims may be barred. NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN

to all persons whose rights may be affected by the above entitled proceedings that additional information may be obtained from the records of the Court, the Personal Representative or the attorneys for the Personal Representative. Dated and first published this 3rd day of December, 2020.



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SAVAGE LOVE

The Casserole
BY DAN SAVAGE



Something is bothering me and I don't know where else to turn. I'm a bisexual man. I've been married to a great guy for the past six years. Despite COVID we gathered safely for an outdoors Thanksgiving dinner with my family. My mom, my brother and sister-in-law and my adult nieces and nephews and their partners were there. Each household contributed to the feast and we had a wonderful evening. While my husband and I were snuggling in bed later he said that my casserole was a big hit thanks to the "secret ingredient." When I asked what he meant, he informed me that he had deposited my come from a blowjob he'd given me earlier that day in my half-finished casserole. When I asked why he did this, he said he thought it was hot and he was aroused watching my family ingest it. To me, this seems a bit twisted and feels like a deeply disrespectful act toward my family. Now I cannot sleep and it is impossible for me to think of anything else. I wish he had never told me. I am writing to you as I don't know where else to turn.

— **Confused And Shuddering Sleeplessly, Entirely Revolted Over Loaded Entrée**

Some letters you suspect are fake, some letters you know are fake, and some letters you hope are fake. I wish I could say this letter fell into the second category — a letter I knew to be fake — but I once got a letter from a man who would excuse himself at dinner parties, quickly rub one out in the bathroom, then dip the bristles of his hosts' toothbrushes in his semen. (That was 20 years ago, and I still secure my toothbrush in a secret, undisclosed location whenever we have company.) So as much as I wished we lived in a world where something like this could never happen, CASSEROLE, we sadly don't live in that world.

That said... some details don't add up. I've been in the receiving end of plenty of blowjobs in my time, CASSEROLE, and there are tells when a guy doesn't swallow. A man who's holding your load in his mouth has a certain look; his mouth and jaw are set in a particular and revealing way. There's also no post-blowjob kissing or snuggling. And if you were to say, "Thank you, that was great," and they hummed back, "Mmm-hmm," instead of saying, "You're welcome," you would immediately know the guy didn't swallow. And yet you would have us believe that your husband somehow gave you a blowjob and somehow didn't swallow your load without you noticing and then... what? He strolled around the house with a mouth full of come until the opportunity to defile your casserole presented itself?

Then again... impromptu blowjobs sometimes happen, CASSEROLE, and they sometimes happen in kitchens. So I suppose it's possible your husband interrupted you while you were making a casserole and then quickly leaned over and spat your load into your casserole and managed to give it a quick stir... without you noticing the spit or the stir? Sounds improbable... but I suppose your husband could have created a diversion that took your attention off him and that mouthful of come and your casserole long enough to execute the spit-and-stir maneuver undetected. Perhaps he pointed at something outside the window or tossed a flash-bang grenade into the dining room.

But even if he did all of this — blew you, didn't swallow, created a diversion, spat your semen into a casserole you planned to share with your entire family — would he tell you about it? The guy who was glazing his friend's toothbrushes didn't brag to his friends about it. He wrote to me about it, described it as a compulsion, and asked me how to stop. That your husband would be so clueless as to think you wouldn't be revolted and upset by this is, if you'll forgive me, a little hard to swallow.

Still... your nieces and nephews are adults... so it's possible you and your husband are getting up there in years... and he could be suffering from early-onset dementia; inappropriate sexual behavior and poor impulse control can be early symptoms.

So on the off, off, off chance this actually happened, CASSEROLE, here's my advice: If your husband spat your load into a half-finished casserole and then watched your whole family consume it and then assumed you would think it was hot, CASSEROLE, then you absolutely, positively need to divorce him. Let us count the ways you can't trust this man: you can't trust him with your semen, you can't trust him not to feed your come to your mother, you can't trust him around your siblings and nieces and nephews. You can't even leave him in the company of an unaccompanied casserole. So unless you looked into his eyes on your wedding day and thought, "This is a guy who would feed a woman her own son's semen and I'm fine with that," your husband isn't the "great guy" you thought he was. He's a monster and what he did was unforgivable, even criminal. Divorce the assereole. You might want to consider calling the cops and pressing charges for sexual assault — here's hoping you saved some of the casserole for DNA testing — but you'll have to weigh involving the police against burdening your mother with the knowledge of your Thanksgiving casserole's secret ingredient.

P.S. A casserole is really more of a side dish at Thanksgiving, isn't it?

Forgive my English. I write from Italy. I'm a quarter of a century old and I have been with my girlfriend for seven years. I can't tell you how long the "sex high" lasted — the time when she wanted to have sex as often as possible — but it was maybe three years. Now if she's stressed, if we are not in a bed, if she hasn't just shaved her legs, if she's just woke up, if she's nervous for any reason at all, she doesn't want to have sex. I'm not one of those men who thinks exclusively about his own pleasure. I have asked her if she has any fantasies. She does not. I have asked her if I should be doing anything different. She says not. She doesn't masturbate, she doesn't watch porn. I purchased a sex toy for us. She will not touch it. And when I try to talk to her, she says that her sexuality is none of my business. I am miserable. I don't know what to do. She says I am "fixated on sex" and that there is more to life than that. I jerk off a lot, of course, which she only just started to accept. At first she considered it equivalent to cheating. Is it wrong to end a relationship of seven years because of a matter of different views on sex? I love her so much and leaving would be hard. Please help me.

— **Who Has Yearnings**

Forgive my bluntness: Either your girlfriend never liked sex all that much or, after seven years, she's no longer excited by sex with you. If she were willing to talk about it, WHY, you might be able to do something about it; you might be able to revive your sex life by trying new things together, experimenting with toys, having adventures. But she's made it clear she's not interested in discussing things, much less doing things. And while she doesn't think her sexuality is any of your business, she clearly sees your sexuality as her business, e.g. until recently she thought you were cheating on her when you jerked off... which is kind of nuts, considering how infrequently she wants to fuck you.

There's nothing wrong with ending a sexually exclusive relationship when the sex doesn't work and your partner couldn't care less that you're unhappy and only grudgingly allows you to masturbate. As much as you love her, it's not working and it's only going to get worse. You're at once every two weeks now and will soon be down to once a month, then once every three months, then once a year. Eventually you'll cheat on her out of sheer desperation and the breakup won't just be painful, WHY, it will be messy and painful and you'll be cast as the bad guy. Don't wait for your dick to slam itself down on the self-destruct button. End it now.

P.S. Your English is so much better than my Italian!

A personal note: Allena Gabosch was a towering figure in Seattle's sex-positive community. She co-founded Seattle's Beyond the Edge Café, which quickly became a warm and welcoming home for Seattle's queer, kink and poly communities. She went on to lead Seattle's Sex Positive Community Center, aka "The Wet Spot," and helped launch the Seattle Erotic Arts Festival. She was a gifted public speaker, a tireless advocate, and a hilarious storyteller with a giving and generous spirit. She also made the best chocolate chip cookies in town. Allena will be missed and she will be remembered. My condolences to her many friends and many families.

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